

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS, JA

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES NATION ON ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS

REF: PEOUL 6262

1. IN THIRTY MINUTE TV AND RADIO ADDRESS EVENING OF SEPT 20, ROK PRIMIN KIM CHONG-PIL SUMMARIZED ROKG ATTITUDE TOWARD CRISIS IN ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS STEMMING FROM AUG 15 INCIDENT AND RESOLUTION OF CRISIS EFFECTED BY SHIINA'S SEPT 19 CALL ON PRESIDENT PARK. PLAYING ON THEME THAT UNITY OF KOREAN PEOPLE MUST BE MAINTAINED IF JAPAN IS TO BE INDUCED TO CARRY OUT PLEDGES MADE IN SHIINA VISIT, KIM THANKED PEOPLE FOR SUPPORT OF ROKG DURING THREE WEEKS OF DIFFICULT NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAPAN.

2. KIM INDICATED THAT ROK DEMANDS ON JAPAN WENT BEYOND CUSTOMARY DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE. EXPLAINING THAT THE VAGUE AND INCONCLUSIVE WORDING OF TANAKA'S LETTER WAS NORMAL UNDER INTERNATIONAL CUSTOM, KIM RELATED ROK'S EFFORTS TO GET COMMITMENT FROM JAPAN THROUGH "NOTE VERBALE" OF SHIINA'S ORAL REMARKS TO PARK -- EFFORTS FOR WHICH HE SAID THERE WAS NO PRECEDENT IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. HE ASCRIBED SUCCESS OF EFFORTS TO DEMONSTRATIONS OF SUPPORT BY KOREAN PEOPLE. SPELLING OUT NATURE UNCLASSIFIED

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OF ROK SUCCESS, KIM REITERATED FIVE POINTS OF SHIINA'S

EXPLANATION REVIOUSLY PUBLICIZED (REFTEL). ALSO SAID THAT JAPAN HAD APOLOGIZED AND HAD PROMISED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO REPEAT OF AUG 15 INCIDENT.

3. AS TO FUTURE, KIM SAID ROKG WOULD PROMOTE COOPERATION WITH JAPAN ON AN EQUAL BASIS BUT CAUTIONED THAT TANAKA'S LETTER AND SHIINA'S REMARKS DID NOT CONSTITUTE A COMPLETE SETTLEMENT OF ROK-JAPAN DIFFERENCES. HE STRESSED THAT "REAL FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES DEPEND ON HOW FAITHFULLY GOJ WILL OBSERVE ITS PLEDGES CONTAINED IN THE NOTE VERBALE."
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